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the Pacific Coast. And no mention whatever is made of the volcanic region of the Yellowstone National Park, a region not only characterized by great diversity of volcanic phenomena, where the influence of volcanic action on the physical features of the region is most marked, but one that is being constantly visited by students and tourists.

The chapter devoted to the theories of volcanic action is good in the main for an elementary treatment of the subject. But some of the reasoning is obscure, especially that with reference to the behavior of absorbed vapors, and the question of their presence or absence from deep-seated and surface rocks. The effort to minimize the effect of steam upon the eruption of lava appears to have been carried too far.

It is greatly to be regretted that defects such as these exist in a book that has so many excellent features to recommend it.

J. P. I.

Revised Text-Book of Geology. By JAMES D. DANA. Edited by WILLIAM NORTH RICE. American Book Company, New York.

The earlier editions of this work are so well known that interest in the present edition is concerned chiefly with the nature of the revision. This had been begun by Professor Dana a short time before his death, but little progress had been made. By request, his former pupil, Dr. William North Rice, completed the work. His aim has been to retain the distinctive characteristics of the book so far as possible and, while bringing it down to the present time as regards its facts, to preserve the known opinions of its author. The editor has endeavored to subordinate his own views to those of the original author, although on certain points, as for example, geographic and climatic oscillations of the Quaternary era, he would have preferred a somewhat different expression. The general plan of arrangement remains unchanged and the omissions about counterbalance the introductions. The zoölogical and botanical classifications previously used were judged to be obsolete and the schemes followed in a majority of the recent manuals of zoölogy and botany were substituted. The theory of evolution finds fuller recognition than in the previous editions. In the treatment of metamorphism the text is considerably modified, especially with reference to the dynamic phases and to the foliated structure of igneous rocks. Otherwise the book presents essentially

the views of science held by the distinguished author in his later years. In the very delicate task of eliminating such errors as the progress of science has developed, and at the same time of deferring almost reverentially to the opinion of the author, Dr. Rice appears to have attained a high degree of success, although some further eliminations of opinions and interpretations which, though not absolutely abandoned by all geologists, have been practically overthrown, might have added value to the work.

T. C. C.

Fossil Plants for Students of Botany and Geology, Vol. I, 450 pp., with illustrations. By A. C. SEWARD, University Press, Cambridge, Eng., 1898.

Botanists and geologists both are bound to welcome Professor Seward's work on Fossil Plants, the first volume of which has recently appeared. This book forms one of the familiar Cambridge Natural Science Manuals, and is rather more extensive than the others. It is safe to say that no general work on palæobotany had previously appeared in English that was satisfactory to both botanists and geologists, and very few that were satisfactory to either. Hence it is a pleasure to read in the preface that this book is intended for both botanists and geologists, and thus has to be adapted to both non-geologists and non-botanists, since it is unfortunately true that neither class, as a rule, appreciates the standpoint of the other. The first chapter contains a brief historical sketch of palæobotany in which the author gives special credit to Brongniart and Williamson. Chapter ii gives the relation of the subject to botany and geology. Professor Seward tells how palæobotany has been buffeted about by the geologist and the botanist, the one culling out facts relating to correlation of strata, the other caring only for facts which give hints as to phylogeny and evolution. He pleads for the recognition of palæobotany as a science of and for itself, with its own peculiar problems, viz., the determination of the historical succession of plants in geological time; the delineation of the actual evolution of the plant kingdom, giving light on phylogenetic mysteries; the presentation of the various floral areas of the past, leading up to an explanation of the distribution of plants in the present day; conclusions as to climatic and other conditions in geological time as revealed by the occurrence of certain peculiar plant types and